

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 01952 01 OF 02 050127Z

72

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OPIC-03

EB-07 /085 W

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O R 042321Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2381

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 1952

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PROPOSED AFM "PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING"

REF: LISBON 1916

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPY OF THE "PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING" PROPOSED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) AND NOW BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND THE RC (REFTEL). ENTITLED "PACT WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES" THE DOCUMENT PRESENTED TO THE PARTIES IS MUCH MORE THAN A PLATFORM, AND IS IN EFFECT A CONSTITUTION WITH ONLY THE DETAILS LEFT OUT. IF ACCEPTED BY THE PARTIES IT WOULD LEAVE NO ROLE FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY EXCEPT TO RATIFY AN ALREADY AGREED-UPON DOCUMENT AND WOULD MAKE THE ELECTIONS MORE OF A PLEBISCITE THAN A CHOICE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01952 01 OF 02 050127Z

2. PARTIES HAD BEEN ASKED TO MAKE THEIR PRELIMINARY COMMENTS TO THE RC ON APRIL 4. FINAL APPROVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR WEEK APRIL 7.

3. PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS OF "PACT" AS FOLLOWS:

OBJECTIVES:

(A) TO ESTABLISH A COMMON POLITICAL PLATFORM TO CONTINUE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION OF APRIL 25, 1974, WITHIN POLITICAL PLURALISM COMPATIBLE WITH THE SOCIALIZING PATH, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF COMMON PROJECT OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION WITHOUT STERILE AND DIVISIVE PARTY FIGHTS.

(B) PRESENT PLATFORM WILL BE PART OF THE FUTURE CONSTITUTION.

(C) THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION WILL BE SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION AND WILL BE BETWEEN THREE AND FIVE YEARS DURING WHICH THE PLATFORM WILL BE VALID. PERIOD WILL END WITH A CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION.

CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS:

(A) RC WILL ENSURE TRULY FREE ELCTIONS.

(B) DURING THE WORK OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY A "MIXED CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION" COMPOSED OF THE AFM AND THE PARTIES WHICH SIGN THIS ACCORD WILL OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT STRAY FROM THE SPIRIT OF THE PROGRAM OF THE AFM.

(C) UNTIL FUTURE ELECTIONS ARE HELD FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE TO REFLECT THE PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

(D) THE PARTIES WHICH AGREE TO THIS PLATFORM PROMISE NOT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AFM AS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING SECTION AND TO INCLUDE IT (INSTITUTIONALIZATION) IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

-- SOVEREIGN ORGANS AND THEIR POWERS

(A) DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD THE SOVEREIGN ORGANS WILL BE:

(I) PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01952 01 OF 02 050127Z

(II) REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

(III) GOVERNMENT

(IV) AFM ASSEMBLY

(V) LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(VI) COURTS

(B) PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC WILL BE PRESIDENT OF RC  
AND SUPREME COMMANDER OF ARMED FORCES. HE WILL CHOOSE THE PRIME  
MINISTER WITH ADVICE OF RC; NAME AND DISCHARGE CABINET MEMBERS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSALS; DISSOLVE THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE RC.

(C) THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED BY AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE  
COMPOSED OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND AFM ASSEMBLY.

(D) THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL BE THAT DEFINED IN CON-  
STITUTIONAL LAW 5/75 OF MARCH 14, 1975. ANY CHANGE IN THE  
COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL CAN ONLY BE MADE BY THE COUNCIL ITSELF,  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AFM ASSEMBLY. THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE AS  
ITS FUNCTIONS:

(I) TO DEFINE THE GENERAL LINES OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY AND  
SEE THEY ARE FOLLOWED:

(II) TO DECIDED UPON THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LAWS AND OTHER  
LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS:

(III) TO EXAMINE AND RATIFY LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OR THE GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING:

(AA) GENERAL LINES OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL POLICY;

(BB) FOREIGN RELATIONS;

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01952 02 OF 02 050140Z

72

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 1952

(CC) FREEDOM OF SPEECH, TEACHING, ASSEMBLY,  
AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES;

(DD) ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE;

(EE) REGULATING POLITICAL ACTIVITY,  
ESPECIALLY ELECTIONS;

(IV) TO PROPOSE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY;

(V) TO EXERCISE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY WITH REGARD TO MILITARY  
MATTERS;

(VI) TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
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PAGE 02 LISBON 01952 02 OF 02 050140Z

TO DELCLARE WAR AND TO MAKE PEACE;

(VII) TO CONSULT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ON THE CHOICE  
OF PRIME MINISTER AND OF THOSE MINISTERS WHO ARE TO HAVE THE  
CONFIDENCE OF THE AFM;

(VIII) TO DECIDE UPON THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY;

(IX) TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
TO DECLARE A STATE OF SIEGE;

(X) TO CHOOSE WHICH OF ITS MEMBERS WILL CARRY OUT THE  
PRESIDENT'S FUNCTIONS IN CASE OF HIS DEATH OR DISABILITY.

(E) GOVERNMENT:

(I) PRIME MINISTER WILL BE CHOSEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC, AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL;

(II) THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE NOMINATED BY THE PRIME MINISTER,

CONSIDERING THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTIES IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND POSSIBLE COALITIONS, AND APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT;

(III) UPON INITIAL FORMATION OR A MINISTERIAL CHANGE AFFECTING AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF THE MINISTERS, THE NEW GOVERNMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO A VOITE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY;

(IV) THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CAN VOTE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. TWO SUCH VOTES, AT LEAST 30 DAYS APART, REQUIRE A CABINET CHANGE.

(V) THE GOVERNMENT CAN LEGISLATE BY DECREE-LAWS IN AREAS NOT RESERVED TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OR TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY;

(VI) THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION, AND ECONOMIC PLANNING MUST HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AFM, AND THEY CANNOT BE APPOINTED WITHOUT CONSULTING THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01952 02 OF 02 050140Z

(F) LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: WILL BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL, DIRECT, AND SECRET BALLOT AND WILL HAVE MAXIMUM 250 DEPUTIES. LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE LIMITED ONLY BY NECESSARY APPROVAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IN MATTERS SET FORTH UNDER (D) (III) (AA-EE) ABOVE. LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY WHICH HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CAN BE PROMULGATED IN THEIR INITIAL FORM IF, UPON SECOND VOTE, THEY ARE APPROVED BY THREE-QUARTERS OF ALL DEPUTIES.

(G) AFM ASSEMBLY: WILL BE COMPOSED OF 240 REPRESENTATIVES OF ARMED FORCES--120 ARMY, 60 NAVY, 60 AIR FORCE-- WITH COMPOSITION DETERMINED BY LAW OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL CONSTITUTE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AFM ASSEMBLY AND WILL PRESIDE OVER IT. THE AFM ASSEMBLY WILL FUNCTION ACCORDING TO ITS OWN REGULATIONS WHICH WILL COME UNDER THE COMPETENCE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

(H) OTHER PROVISIONS:

(I) THE FUTURE CONSTITUTION TO BE ELABORATED BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE VALID FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD OF 3-5 YEARS. AT THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WILL BE DISSOLVED AND A NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTED WITH CONSTITUENT POWERS WILL REVISE THE CONSTITUTION. ONLY WHEN THIS CONSTITUTION ENTERS INTO FORDE WILL THE TRANSITION PERIOD BE CONSIDERED AS TERMINATED.

(II) IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS CONSTITUTING THE BASIS OF THIS AGREEMENT, THE CONSTITUTION WILL CONSECRATE THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE AFM PROGRAM AS WELL AS THOSE DEVELOPMENTS TO THE PROGRAM IMPOSED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY DYNAMIC WHICH HAVE PLACED THE COUNTRY IRREVERSIBLY ON THE PATH TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISM.

(III) DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, MILITARY AUTHORITY WILL MAINTAIN ITSELF INDEPENDENT OF CIVIL AUTHORITY.

4. COMMENT: LEADING POLITICAL COMMENTER AND PPD LEADER REBELLO DE SOUSA HAS CHARACTERIZED DOCUMENT TO US AS "HARD". IN HIS OPINION THE ONLY HOPE FOR MAKING ANY CHANGES IN THE RC PROPOSAL IS FOR THE PPD, PS, AND CDS TO WORK TOGETHER. HE IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO; NOR IS HE OPTIMISTIC THAT  
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PAGE 04 LISBON 01952 02 OF 02 050140Z

EVEN IF THEY DO PRESENT A UNITED FRONT WILL THEY BE ABLE TO MAKE MORE THAN SUPERFICIAL CHANGES IN THE RC PROPOSAL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Reference:** 75 LISBON 1916  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED AFM "PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING"  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006